

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-2, 7-8 and 10 were rejected. The Examiner objected to claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11 and 14. By entry of this amendment, claims 2, 6-8, 10-11 and 14 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 21-30 have been added.

The Examiner objected to claims 11 and 14 because of various informalities. In response, claims 11 and 14 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, withdraw of these objections is respectfully requested. Consequently, claims 11 and 14 are allowable.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-6 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Consequently, claim 6 is allowable.

New claims 21-30 based upon claims 1-10 as originally filed have been added and are also patentable over the cited art. Independent claim 21 recites a vehicle coupler comprising “a coupler housing; and a locking cylinder disposed to said coupler housing and mechanically coupled to a plurality of engagement pins; wherein rotation of said lock cylinder moves said engagement pins between two positions, a locked position wherein said plurality of engagement pins extend beyond said coupler housing and an unlocked position wherein said plurality of engagement pins do not extend beyond said coupler housing.”

It is respectfully submitted that U.S. Patent No. 6,666,051 to Li does not teach or suggest all of the cited limitations of claim 21. Specifically, Li does not teach the limitation of a locked position wherein a plurality of engagement pins extend beyond the coupler housing.

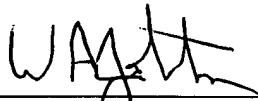
The undersigned notes that the Examiner has asserted that Li discloses a coupler housing 30 and a locking cylinder 32. However, the Examiner has not identified by reference character an element that corresponds to a plurality of engagement pins. Regardless, the undersigned respectfully submits that any and all potentially equivalent elements disclosed by Li remain within the housing 30 during manipulation of the locking cylinder 32 between a locked and an unlocked positions. Consequently, Li does not teach or suggest a "locked position wherein said plurality of engagement pins extend beyond said coupler housing." Therefore, independent claim 21 is allowable over Li et al.

The remaining pending dependent claims are allowable at least based on direct or indirect dependence on allowable independent claim 6, 11, 14 and 21.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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